

## I-10 widening in SW Valley set to begin

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The Arizona Republic

Feb. 12, 2008 06:44 AM

Southwest Valley residents describing hour-plus commutes on Interstate 10 said they'll gladly endure construction delays now for better traffic in the future.

This month, workers begin widening I-10 to five lanes from two each way between Sarival Road and Loop 101.

Drivers turned out recently for the first Arizona Department of Transportation "I-10 road show," where satellite maps, diagrams and project engineers simplified the various I-10 widening phases, which stretch to 2023.

"Progress takes time," said Goodyear resident Jay Humphrey, 63.

He moved to the Southwest Valley two years ago, knowing traffic was difficult but improvements were in the works.

"We'd be lost without (I-10)," Humphrey said. "This (construction) is really needed."

ADOT will lower the speed limit to 55 mph through construction zones, which could further delay traffic.

"I don't anticipate a problem," said Humphrey, who will use Buckeye Road or Van Buren Street as alternate routes. "Everybody's so looking forward to it, they'll be willing to put up with (delays)."

Victor Calderon, 44, drives 75 minutes to work in north Phoenix from Buckeye every day.

"I listen to the radio. What else can you do really?" said Calderon, who works for the charter school system Leona Group.

The same commute on the weekend takes 35 minutes, he said.

"That's because all the cars have cleared out," Calderon said.

Even carpooling only shaves a few minutes off, he said.

Four years after voters passed a half-cent sales tax to pay for major road construction projects in the county, watching work begin is a relief, said Jim Lewin, ADOT community relations manager.

"That's what the public is waiting for," he said. "They want to see construction."

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